

Claims:

1. A workstation for performing steps of a resin application process for dynamo-electrical machine components, said workstation comprising a plurality of units,

5 wherein at least one of said units is of a first type comprising:

a cabinet for providing a controlled ambient during the performance of a step of said process; and

10 a rotating vertical support structure disposed in said cabinet, said support structure having a plurality of fixtures disposed in an annular region thereon for holding said components during the performance of said step.

15 2. The workstation of claim 1 wherein a said fixture comprises a structure for receiving said components therein along a path substantially perpendicular to the face of said rotating vertical support structure.

20 3. The workstation according to claim 1 wherein said cabinet further comprises an annular compartment having said controlled ambient, and wherein 25 said held components travel through said annular compartment as said vertical support structure rotates during the performance of said process step.

30 4. The workstation according to claim 1 wherein said the temperature of said controlled ambient is controlled by flow of heated air through said cabinet.

5. The workstation according to claim 4
wherein said fixtures comprise open structures that allow
35 air to circulate therethrough and expose substantial
surface portions of said held components to said
controlled ambient.

6. The workstation of claim 1 further
40 comprising a control unit to control rotation of said
vertical support structure.

7. The workstation of claim 6 wherein the
rotation of said vertical support structure is
45 intermittent with alternating periods of rotation and
periods of pause, and wherein at least one of said
fixtures is aligned with a predetermined position during
said periods of pause.

50 8. The workstation of claim 7 wherein the
angle of rotation during a said period of rotation is
less than about one half a radian.

9. The workstation of claim 7 wherein said
55 predetermined position corresponds to a position for
loading and unloading components from said aligned
fixture.

10. The workstation of claim 1 wherein said
60 plurality of units are disposed adjacent each other, said
workstation further comprising movable transfer devices
disposed alongside said plurality of units for loading
and unloading components from said units, and for
transferring components between said plurality of units,

65 wherein said movable transfer devices are capable of motion in linear spatial dimensions.

11. The workstation according to claim 1
wherein a first one of said plurality of units preheats
70 said components in preparation of subsequent resin application.

12. The workstation according to claim 11
wherein a second one of said plurality of units applies
75 resin to said components.

13. The workstation according to claim 12
wherein said second one of said plurality of units is a
unit of said first type.

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14. The workstation of claim 13 wherein a
multiplicity of said fixtures in said second one of said
plurality of units are aligned with a multiplicity of
resin-receiving positions as said vertical support
85 structure rotates, and wherein at said resin-receiving
positions resin is applied to components loaded in said
aligned fixtures.

15. The workstation of claim 14 wherein said
90 second one of said plurality of units further comprises
resin-dispensing units that are disposed vertically above
said resin-receiving positions.

16. The workstation of claim 13 wherein said
95 second one of said plurality of units further comprises
vertically movable resin-bearing trays that are disposed
vertically below said resin-receiving positions.

100 17. The workstation according to claim 1
wherein a third one of said plurality of units heats said
components to cure the resin applied to said components.

105 18. The workstation according to claim 1
wherein said plurality of units comprise:

 a preheating unit of said first type for
heating components in preparation for subsequent resin
application;

110 a resin application unit of said first type
disposed adjacent to said preheating unit for applying
resin to preheated components;

 a resin-curing unit of said first type disposed
adjacent to said resin application unit for heat curing
the resin applied to components;

115 movable transfer devices disposed alongside
said plurality of units for loading and unloading
components from said plurality of units and for
transferring components between said plurality of units;
and

120 a control unit to control rotation of said
vertical support structures in said preheating, resin
application, and resin curing units, and to control said
movable transfer devices.

125 19. The workstation of claim 18 wherein said
control unit synchronizes the intermittent rotation of
said vertical support structures such that the periods of
pause in said preheating unit, in said resin application
unit, and in said resin curing unit occur substantially

130 simultaneously such that said vertical support structures
are stationary at substantially a same time interval.

20. The workstation of claim 19 wherein said
control unit supervises said transfer devices to load and
135 unload components from said plurality of units during
said same time interval while said vertical support
structures are stationary.

21. A unit for performing a resin application
140 process step for dynamo-electric machine components, said
unit comprising:

a cabinet for providing a controlled
temperature ambient during the performance of said
process step;

145 a rotating vertical support structure
disposed in said cabinet, said support structure having
an array of fixtures disposed in an annular region
thereon for holding said components,

wherein said held components travel
150 through said controlled ambient as said vertical support
structure rotates during the performance of said process
step.

22. The unit of claim 21 wherein a said
155 fixture comprises a structure for receiving said
components therein along a path substantially
perpendicular to the face of said rotating vertical
support structure.

160 23. The unit of claim 21 wherein said
controlled temperature ambient is controlled by flowing
heated air through said cabinet.

165 24. The unit of claim 23 wherein said fixtures
comprise open structures that allow air to circulate
therethrough and expose substantial surface portions of
said held components to said controlled ambient.

170 25. The unit of claim 21 wherein said cabinet
further comprises an annular compartment having said
controlled ambient, and wherein said held components travel through said annular compartment as
said vertical support structure rotates during the
performance of said process step.

175 26. The unit of claim 21 wherein said cabinet
further comprises a compartment for cooling said
components after the performance of said process step.

180 27. A method for applying resin to dynamo-
electrical machine components, comprising:

185 loading said components in first holding
fixtures, wherein said first holding fixtures are
disposed in an annular region on the face of a first
vertical support plate rotatably mounted in a preheating
cabinet;

 flowing heated air through said cabinet to
provide a temperature controlled ambient therein;

190 rotating said first vertical support plate such
that said loaded components travel through said
controlled temperature controlled ambient and are heated
to a predetermined temperature;

 unloading said heated components from said
preheating cabinet;

195 transferring said unloaded heated components to
a resin application unit, wherein said resin application
unit comprises means for applying a quantity of resin to
said components; and

200 applying resin to said transferred components
in said resin application unit.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein said
rotating said first vertical support plate further
comprises rotating said first vertical plate
205 intermittently with first periods of rotation alternating
with first periods of pause such that that a said first
holding fixture disposed on said first vertical support
plate is aligned with a first loading position,

210 wherein said unloading said heated components
from said preheating cabinet further comprises unloading
a said heated component from said first holding fixture
aligned with said first loading position during a said
first period of pause, and

215 wherein loading said components in first
holding fixtures further comprises loading a said
component in said first holding fixture aligned with said
first loading position from which said heated component
has been unloaded during same said first period of pause.

220 29. The method of claim 28 wherein transferring
said unloaded heated components to a resin application
unit further comprises:

225 reloading said unloaded heated components in an
empty second holding fixture, wherein a plurality of said
second holding fixtures are disposed in an annular region
on the face of a second vertical support plate rotatably
mounted in said resin application unit, and wherein said

230 reloading occurs while said second vertical support plate is stationary and said empty second holding fixture is aligned with a second loading position; and wherein applying resin to said transferred components in said resin application unit further comprises:

235 intermittently rotating said second vertical support plate with second periods of rotation alternating with second periods of pause to advance said reloaded heated component away from said second loading position through said resin application unit; and

240 using said means for applying a quantity of resin during a second period of pause after said advanced component has moved away from said second loading position to apply resin said advanced component.

245 30. The method of claim 27 further comprising: heat curing the resin applied to said components.

250 31. The method of claim 30 wherein heat curing the resin applied to said components further comprises:

255 transferring said components with resin applied to them out of said resin application unit;

260 loading said components in third holding fixtures, wherein said third holding fixtures are disposed in an annular region on the face of a third vertical support plate rotatably mounted in a resin-curing cabinet;

265 flowing heated air through said resin-curing cabinet to provide a temperature controlled ambient therein; and

270 rotating said third vertical support plate such that said loaded components travel through said controlled ambient to heat said applied resin.